

LAS POSAS BASIN POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, August 1, 2024, 3:00 P.M.

In Person:

Calleguas Municipal Water District, 2100 Olsen Road, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

Via Zoom:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84816327542?pwd=Y-bN4zt674FOphU6wRyxXw9swYTgvA.9bNuXf3yWWBZyrae>

Webinar ID: 848 1632 7542

Passcode: 400774

NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Las Posas Basin Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) will hold a special meeting at 3:00 P.M. on **Thursday, August 1, 2024**, in the Board Meeting Room of the Calleguas Municipal Water District and via Zoom.

AGENDA

- A. Call to Order**
- B. Roll Call**
- C. Agenda Review**
- D. Public Comments**
- E. PAC Member Comments**
- F. Regular Agenda**
 - 1. Approve the minutes of the July 11, 2024 Special Meeting**
 - 2. Approve the minutes of the July 18, 2024 Regular Meeting**
 - 3. Committee Consultation: Del Norte Assessment Protest**

On April 18, 2024, Del Norte Water Company submitted a letter to the Las Posas Watermaster protesting the 2024 basin assessment. Their protest is based on Section 7.9 of the Judgment, which contemplates potential basin assessment reductions for activities that are duplicative with United Water Conservation District (UWCD) assessments. Del Norte believes some portion of the Watermaster basin assessment is for activities that are duplicative with UWCD activities. Section 7.9 is attached for reference.

On July 12, 2024, Del Norte Water Company submitted a second letter to the Watermaster. That letter claims to have received no response to the April 18 letter and informs the Watermaster of Del Norte's intention to "seek relief" pursuant to Section 9.2 of the Judgment.

On July 17, 2024, Watermaster submitted the two letters and the attached memo to the PAC for committee consultation. Watermaster requests PAC feedback by August 9, 2024.

The PAC will discuss the issues and consider a response.

4. Committee Consultation: Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-25 Watermaster Budget

On July 22, 2024, the Watermaster submitted the attached memo and draft FY24-25 budget for PAC consultation per the Judgment. The PAC requests feedback by August 16.

The PAC will review the budget and consider a response.

5. PAC Subcommittees

At its July 18, 2024 meeting, the PAC discussed the formation of subcommittees to mirror those of the FCGMA/Watermaster: Fiscal Committee, Executive Committee, Operations Committee, and Technical Advisory Committee. The PAC will consider the creation of these subcommittees and the appointment of committee members to them.

G. Written Communication

None.

H. Future Agenda Items

The PAC will consider items for future agendas.

I. Adjourn

Item F-1

LAS POSAS VALLEY BASIN POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes for July 11, 2024

The Las Posas Valley Basin Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) held a meeting at 3:00 PM on Thursday, July 11, 2024, in the Board Meeting Room of the Calleguas Municipal Water District Office and via Zoom.

A. Call to Order: Chair Prichard called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM.

B. Roll Call: All PAC members were present unless otherwise noted:

1. Calleguas Municipal Water District – Ian Prichard, Chair
2. Zone Mutual Water Company – John Menne
3. Ventura County Waterworks District Nos. 1 and 19 – David Fleisch, absent
4. Commercial – Seat is vacant
5. Watermaster (non-voting) – Farai Kaseke, via Zoom
6. East Las Posas Large Agriculture – David Schwabauer, absent
7. East Las Posas Small Agriculture – Josh Waters
8. East Las Posas Mutual Water Company – Laurel Servin, via Zoom
9. West Las Posas Large Agriculture – Rob Grether, Vice-Chair, via Zoom
10. West Las Posas Small Agriculture – Richard Cavaletto
11. West Las Posas Mutual Water Company – Steven Murata

C. Agenda Review: There were no comments or requests related to the agenda.

D. Public Comments: Two local members of the public spoke.

1. Darryl Smith asked if PAC funds are going to be used to oppose parties who are taking steps to become involved in the adjudication in an effort to obtain an allocation. His remarks were noted, and Vice-Chair Grether (re)stated that the PAC is purely an advisory committee to the LPV Watermaster and has no decision-making authority.
2. Bill Miller spoke as a follow up to his letter to the PAC dated April 26, 2024, where he explained that two of his FCGMA-approved wells were under construction and not active during the baseline period, therefore he has no allocation. He asked the PAC to present his issue to the LPV Watermaster/FCGMA Board on his behalf.

E. PAC Member Comments: There were no PAC member comments.

F. Regular Agenda

1. Approve the Minutes of the June 6, 2024, PAC Regular meeting: Richard Cavaletto moved to approve the minutes as stated for the June 6, 2024, meeting; John Menne seconded the motion which passed with a vote of 7-Ayes, 0-Nays, 3-Absent.

2. FCGMA Fiscal Committee Update: Chair Prichard, Vice-Chair Grether, and other PAC members provided updates to the PAC about the recent FCGMA/LPV Watermaster Fiscal Committee meetings as follows:

June 10, 2024 meeting: PAC attendees reported that the meeting was collaborative. The goal for this meeting was to fine tune the budget prior to the June 26, 2024, FCGMA/LPV Watermaster Regular Board meeting. However, there were still certain key issues that did not have resolutions and clear decisions.

The budget item with the largest dollar value that is still undecided is who will bear the cost of \$474,912 in legal fees largely associated with FCGMA's appeal of the Final Judgment. The PAC has previously formally stated its position that all legal costs associated with the appeal should be borne by the FCGMA GEMES legal fund, and not by landowners in Las Posas Valley paying Watermaster basin assessments. The decision remained outstanding as of the date of this meeting.

On July 3, 2024, FCGMA filed a request with the Superior Court to dismiss its appeal of the Judgment after consultation with the PAC on key deadlines/dates for reports and feedback on Basin Management Actions. In lieu of the appeal, FCGMA is preparing to file a motion with the Superior Court to amend the Watermaster Rules with a proposal to amend the "important dates" associated with Basin Management Actions.

July 9, 2024 meeting: PAC members reported that an organized approach was used to study and document the needs for the future budget; a template was developed to report information in a consistent manner. There was a brief discussion about the upcoming Oxnard Pleasant Valley (OPV) pending adjudication and how the legal costs associated with that might impact the LPV Basin constituents. The issue of the previously incurred FCGMA legal appeal fees in the LPV Basin was not resolved.

FCGMA Staffing Update: LPV Watermaster representative Farai Kaseke reported that four new employees were recently hired at FCGMA in various roles.

3. PAC Administrator: Update on approval and installment of PAC Administrator, Tony Morgan. The PAC submitted a request to have TAC member Tony Morgan serve in a dual role as the PAC Administrator in addition to his role as a TAC member. This additional responsibility needs to be reflected in Tony Morgan's contract, therefore he cannot act in this capacity until the revised contract is approved by his firm and FCGMA/Ventura County; the amended contract is in process now, and is expected to be finalized soon.

TAC/PAC Coordination: The inaugural meeting of the TAC is scheduled for Monday, July 15, 2024, at 10:00 AM via Zoom. This will not be a joint meeting with the TAC and PAC, but it will be a public meeting and PAC members are encouraged to join the meeting via Zoom to get to know the TAC members and to learn about the assignments that they will begin working on for LPV Watermaster.

4. Watermaster Basin Management Actions: The PAC discussed the status of the revised due date schedule that was created during the special meeting with PAC, FCGMA, and their

external counsel on March 26, 2024. FCGMA external counsel is working on proposed Watermaster Rule changes to reflect the agreed upon revised dates, and they will be submitted to the Court as soon as possible.

PAC members expressed concern about the upcoming required deliverables related to Basin Management Actions including the five-year GSP Evaluation Report which is due to DWR on or before January 13, 2025. It is likely that the PAC will have less than the agreed-upon 77 days to perform its review of the report. There was some discussion about requesting an extension from DWR, but it is unlikely to be granted and the PAC declined to pursue it.

5. PAC Directors Liability Insurance: Multiple PAC members have requested Directors and Officers liability insurance coverage to protect them against any legal actions which may be brought against the PAC and its members. A letter from Laurel Servin to FCGMA/LPV Watermaster was attached to this meeting agenda for review. It has been determined that FCGMA's existing coverage does not include coverage for the PAC; County counsel has advised the Watermaster that they are not obligated to provide coverage; but a separate line item is currently on the proposed budget for the 2024-25 year to provide this coverage. The budget is expected to be presented to the FCGMA/LPV Watermaster board for approval at its August meeting.

G. Written Communication:

Notice of Potential Litigation from LPV Watermaster: A Notice of Potential Litigation letter was sent to all WMID holders on June 28, 2024. This includes a Public Records Act Request which was submitted to FCGMA by Jackson Tidus, A Law Corporation, who is representing a group of landowners who state that they never received proper notice of the Adjudication. The notice was received and acknowledged by the PAC.

H. Future Agenda Items

1. Discuss the creation of a standard response letter from the PAC to constituents who request assistance that is beyond the scope of the PAC.
2. Discuss the results of the inaugural TAC meeting and how the PAC can participate in their regular meetings to keep the PAC informed of current projects and any obstacles.

I. Adjournment: Chair Prichard adjourned the meeting at 4:32 PM until the next regular PAC meeting on July 18, 2024.

Item F-2

LAS POSAS VALLEY BASIN POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes for July 18, 2024

The Las Posas Valley Basin Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) held a meeting at 3:00 PM on Thursday, July 18, 2024, in the Board Meeting Room of the Calleguas Municipal Water District Office and via Zoom.

A. Call to Order: Chair Prichard called the meeting to order at 3:04 PM.

B. Roll Call: All PAC members were present unless otherwise noted:

1. Calleguas Municipal Water District – Ian Prichard, Chair, via Zoom
2. Zone Mutual Water Company – John Menne, via Zoom
3. Ventura County Waterworks District Nos. 1 and 19 – David Fleisch, absent
4. Commercial – seat is vacant
5. Watermaster (non-voting) – Farai Kaseke – Via Zoom
6. East Las Posas Large Agriculture – David Schwabauer, via Zoom
7. East Las Posas Small Agriculture – Josh Waters, absent
8. East Las Posas Mutual Water Company – Laurel Servin, via Zoom
9. West Las Posas Large Agriculture – Rob Grether, Vice-Chair, via Zoom
10. West Las Posas Small Agriculture – Richard Cavaletto
11. West Las Posas Mutual Water Company – Steven Murata

C. Agenda Review: There were no comments or requests related to the agenda.

D. Public Comments: Daryl Smith and Bill Miller made public comments.

E. PAC Member Comments: There were no PAC member comments.

F. Regular Agenda

1. TAC Update: The TAC held its first meeting on July 15. Richard Cavaletto, Rob Grether, and Ian Prichard attended. The TAC set a regular meeting date of the third Tuesday of the month at 2:00 PM.

The TAC went over their roles and responsibilities. Interim Executive Director Arne Anselm teed up the conversation by referencing the chain of command described in the Judgment: the TAC receives direction from and reports to the Watermaster. Chad Taylor, the TAC Administrator, drew the group's attention to the fact that the description of the TAC is situated in Section VI of the Judgment, entitled "Stakeholder Participation," and said from his perspective that the role of the TAC is to balance responsibilities to the Watermaster, representation of the stakeholders that nominated them to the TAC, and the good of the basin.

The TAC discussed the Committee Consultation regarding the Basin Optimization Plan. The consultation consisted of reviewing two items: (i) development of Project Evaluation Criteria; and (ii) technical evaluation of projects that will be included in the Basin

Optimization Plan. The TAC reviewed the materials briefly and is scheduling a date for a special meeting to discuss the TAC's feedback and develop a Recommendation Report.

2. PAC Subcommittees: Chair Prichard introduced the idea of forming subcommittees to mirror the FCGMA/Watermaster committees, including the TAC. Several members volunteered during the meeting. Chair Prichard will solicit additional volunteers to round out the subcommittees ahead of formalizing appointments at an upcoming PAC meeting.
3. PAC Roles and Responsibilities: The PAC discussed the roles and responsibilities of the committee as outlined in the Judgment.

Daryl Smith made a public comment to the fact that the division between the FCGMA and Watermaster, at the Board level, is unclear and presents potential concurrence complications.

4. PAC Response to Petitioners: The PAC discussed the benefits of developing a document that clearly lays out the roles and responsibilities of the PAC to be used as a standard response to petitioners and for greater general information.

Richard Cavaletto remarked on previous discussions regarding outreach to PAC members' constituency groups. Contact information for parties in different constituent groups is available on the Watermaster website.

The PAC discussed the need for iterative analysis with the TAC on issues regarding outstanding/unrepresented pumping in the basin. Vice Chair Grether cautioned the PAC to remain within the committee's remit as described in the Judgment.

These two issues—developing a standard response to petitioners and a document clearly defining the PAC's roles and responsibilities—struck the PAC as a good assignment to a potential future Operations Subcommittee.

G. Written Communication:

None.

H. Future Agenda Items

1. On July 17, the Watermaster provided to the PAC a committee consultation regarding the Del Norte Mutual Water Company's filing of a protest against the initial basin assessment. It was requested that this item appear on the August 1 PAC agenda.

I. Adjournment: Chair Prichard adjourned the meeting at 4:36 PM until the next regular PAC meeting on August 1, 2024.

Item F-3

FOX CANYON GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY

LAS POSAS VALLEY WATERMASTER



MEMORANDUM

Date: July 17, 2024
To: Las Posas Valley Watermaster Policy Advisory Committee
From: Kudzai F. Kaseke, Assistant Groundwater Manager
Subject: Protest of Water Year 2023 Basin Assessment levied on Del Norte Water Company (WMID 3500).

Dear Las Posas Valley Watermaster Policy Advisory Committee (PAC):

Attached for committee consultation is communication from Del Norte Water Company (WMID 3500) protesting the Water Year 2023 Basin Assessment levied against the company and its shareholders.

The Las Posas Valley Adjudication Judgment states that, the Watermaster, following Committee Consultation, may reduce the amount of the Basin Assessments levied on Water Right Holders that pay an assessment to United Water Conservation District (UWCD), if such a reduction is appropriate as a matter of equity. (Judgment § 7.9). The Las Posas Valley Adjudication Judgment also provides that, “Any Party seeking judicial review of a Basin Management Action must have timely exhausted opportunities for relief through the submission of written comment(s) to Watermaster, either individually or through a written report submitted by PAC or TAC, concerning the Basin Management Action;” (Judgment § 9.2.1.1).

Watermaster brings this issue before the PAC for discussion in compliance with the Judgment. Please provide feedback to the Watermaster by August 9, 2024.

Please contact me at 805 654 2010 or LPV.Watermaster@ventura.org with any questions or concerns.

Del Norte Water Company

Post Office Box 4065
Ventura, California 93007
Phone (805) 647-1092 Fax (805) 647-2805

July 12, 2024

Via E-Mail Transmission

Las Posas Valley Watermaster
LPV.Watermaster@ventura.org

Re: Protest of Basin Assessment-Release Date 03/05/2024

Dear Sir or Madam:

By letter dated April 18, 2024, Del Norte Water Company (“DNWC”) sent a letter to the Watermaster protesting the payment of the Basin Assessment based on Section 7.9 of the Final Judgment (the “April 18 Protest”). [A copy of the April 18 Protest is attached hereto as Exhibit “1”.] No response has been received from the Watermaster. Please be advised that DNWC intends to seek relief pursuant to the provisions of Section 9.2 of the Final Judgment:

Section 9.2.1.1 of the Final Judgment provides: “Any Party seeking judicial review of a Basin Management Action must have timely exhausted opportunities for relief through the submission of written comment(s) to Watermaster, either individually or through a written report submitted by PAC or TAC, concerning the Basin Management Action.”

Section 9.2.1.2 of the Final Judgment provides: “Prior to seeking judicial review of a Basin Management Action, Watermaster and the disputing Party(ies) shall first engage in mediation unless both Watermaster and the disputing Party(ies) agree in writing to forego mediation. Watermaster may waive the requirement to engage in mediation in which case a Party that has exhausted its administrative remedies with Watermaster may seek judicial review without having engaged in mediation.”

The April 18 Protest was DNWC’s good faith attempt to initiate a dialogue with Watermaster regarding Section 7.9 assessment reductions. Having received no response from Watermaster on the protested matter, DNWC has exhausted administrative remedies and will continue to pursue its sought-after remedies through the above-referenced channels. The Watermaster assessment is for activities and administration that either duplicate the activities of

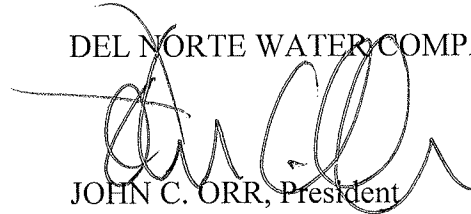
the UWCD or has no benefit to DNWC and its Shareholders. Notwithstanding the protest, DNWC complied with the Notice of Assessment and paid the \$187,832.00 basin assessment in full. DNWC seeks the following remedies:

- 1) An Amended Notice of Assessment reflecting a reduction that is proportionate to the duplicative or non-beneficial activities and administration referenced above; and
- 2) Reimbursement that is proportionate to the reduction in the Amended Notice of Assessment.

DNWC remains hopeful that an agreement can be reached without resorting to mediation or judicial review. Please advise whether mediation or review by the Santa Barbara Superior Court will be necessary to enforce Section 7.9 of the Final Judgment.

Very truly yours,

DEL NORTE WATER COMPANY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John C. Orr", is written over the printed name and title.

JOHN C. ORR, President

JCO:nsh
Attachment

cc: DNWC Board of Directors – *Via E-Mail Transmission*
Barbara Brenner, Esq. – *Via E-Mail Transmission*

EXHIBIT "1"

[DNWC'S APRIL 18 PROTEST]

Del Norte Water Company

Post Office Box 4065
Ventura, California 93007
Phone (805) 647-1092 Fax (805) 647-2805

April 18, 2024

Via E-Mail Transmission

Las Posas Valley Watermaster
LPV.Watermaster@ventura.org

Re: Protest of Basin Assessment - Release Date: 03/05/2024

Dear Sir or Madam:

Del Norte Water Company (“DNWC”) received a Notice of Basin Assessment Release Date: 03/05/2024 made pursuant to Final Judgment filed 07/10/2023 in *Las Posas Valley Water Rights Coalition, et al. v. Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency, et al.*, Case No. VENCI00509700. A copy of said Notice is attached hereto as Exhibit “A”.

As you are aware, appeals of the Judgment are pending, although it has not been stayed.

On April 6, 2024, DNWC forwarded a check to the Watermaster of the funds collected by it from its Shareholders in response to the Notice of Assessment.

DNWC, for itself and each of its Shareholders (see List of WMIDs attached hereto as Exhibit “B”), hereby Protests the payment of the Basin Assessments made, with full reservation of all applicable rights against the Las Posas Valley Watermaster, because of the provisions of Section 7.9 of the Judgment which reads:

“7.9 **Adjustments to Basin Assessments for UWCD Assessments.** Water Right Holders located in the western portion of the Basin within the UWCD’s service area presently pay assessments to UWCD, a portion of which is used to finance UWCD’s ongoing activities that are designed to replenish the Basin and neighboring basins. Watermaster may reduce the amount of the Basin Assessments levied on Water Right Holders that pay an assessment to UWCD if Watermaster determines, following Committee Consultation, that such a reduction is appropriate as a matter of equity.”

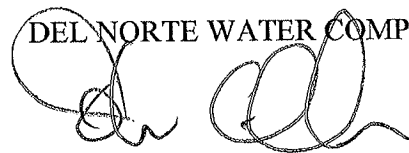
DNWC completed the UWCD’s Semi-Annual Groundwater Production Statements (attached hereto as Exhibit “C”) for the period 07/01/2023 to 12/31/2023. DNWC has partially paid 25% of the \$187,832 that was due and will pay the balance on June 30, 2024.

Las Posas Valley Watermaster
April 18, 2024
Page 2

The UWCD assessment is based on replenishment activities that benefit DNWC and its Shareholders. DNWC is informed and believes the Watermaster assessment is for activities and administration that either duplicate the activities of the UWCD or has no benefit to DNWC and its Shareholders.

DNWC apologizes that, due to clerical error, this Protest was not made at the time the assessment monies were forwarded to the Watermaster on April 6, 2024.

Very Truly Yours,

DEL NORTE WATER COMPANY

JOHN C. ORR, President

JCO:mjr

cc: Shareholders of DNWC

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Judgment Section 7.9

1 7.7 **Audit.** The finances of Watermaster shall be subject to an annual audit by a
2 certified public auditing firm. A full certified audit shall be accomplished every three years. An
3 audit review shall be accomplished in the other two years. Copies of every audit shall be made
4 available upon request to every Person who is a beneficiary of the water rights in the Basin.

5 7.8 **Contracting with Parties for Basin Optimization Projects.** Watermaster may
6 contract with Parties to implement Basin Optimization Projects, including the extension of credits
7 against Basin Assessments as consideration under the contract.

8 7.9 **Adjustments to Basin Assessments for UWCD Assessments.** Water Right
9 Holders located in the western portion of the Basin within the UWCD's service area presently pay
10 assessments to UWCD, a portion of which is used to finance UWCD's ongoing activities that are
11 designed to replenish the Basin and neighboring basins. Watermaster may reduce the amount of
12 the Basin Assessments levied on Water Right Holders that pay an assessment to UWCD if
13 Watermaster determines, following Committee Consultation, that such a reduction is appropriate
14 as a matter of equity.

15 **VIII. CALLEGUAS AQUIFER STORAGE & RECOVERY PROJECT**

16 8.1 **Calleguas ASR Project Operations.** Subject to the No Injury Rule, Calleguas
17 may make reasonable use of the Basin's storage space to facilitate operation of the Calleguas
18 ASR Project consistent with Article X, section 2 of the California Constitution, the provisions
19 herein, and any further conditions that the Court deems equitable in any future proceeding under
20 the Court's continuing jurisdiction. The Calleguas ASR Project is intended as a water supply for
21 Calleguas's customers under the four scenarios described below in Section 8.3. The Calleguas
22 ASR Project includes two components: (i) the direct delivery of imported water into wells at the
23 Calleguas ASR Project site for subsurface storage and subsequent withdrawal for beneficial uses
24 within the Calleguas service area, and (ii) Calleguas ASR In Lieu. Both components of the
25 Calleguas ASR Project are currently operated pursuant to FCGMA approvals that set forth
26 various conditions on the operation of the Calleguas ASR Project. The Court finds that the
27 collaborative, technically focused process is the optimal approach to develop the operational
28 parameters for the Calleguas ASR Project consistent with Calleguas's right to reasonably use

Jugment Section 9.2

1 the implementation of the Judgment. This includes the authority to review Basin Management
2 Actions, and to make such further or supplemental orders or directives as may be necessary or
3 appropriate, upon the motion of any Party or Watermaster, or *sua sponte*, to address *inter se*
4 disputes concerning rights and obligations arising from the Judgment, and achieve Sustainable
5 Groundwater Management, including: (i) the operation of the Physical Solution established by the
6 Judgment; (ii) interpretation, enforcement, or carrying out of the Judgment; (iii) the modification
7 or amendment of the Judgment; and (iv) rights to utilize available storage in the Basin (other than
8 Carryover and the Calleguas ASR Project as provided herein). The Court shall construe its
9 authority to review Basin Management Actions broadly, consistent with its authority and duty to
10 impose and oversee a physical solution where necessary and consistent with Article X, section 2
11 of the California Constitution. The Court shall exercise its continuing jurisdiction in this action in
12 the manner it deems necessary and appropriate to ensure Adaptive Management to achieve
13 Sustainable Groundwater Management consistent with the law and the rights adjudicated herein.
14 The Court orders that this Judgment govern all aspects of the FCGMA's management of the
15 Basin, whether undertaken by the FCGMA in its role as a special act water management agency,
16 the GSA under SGMA, or as Watermaster. The Court may appoint such other independent
17 special masters or referees to advise the Court with respect to any dispute as the Court deems
18 necessary or advisable.

19 **9.2 Judicial Review of Watermaster Basin Management Actions.**

20 9.2.1. Any Party may seek judicial review of a Basin Management Action
21 upon motion, provided that:

22 9.2.1.1. Any Party seeking judicial review of a Basin Management
23 Action must have timely exhausted opportunities for relief through the submission of written
24 comment(s) to Watermaster, either individually or through a written report submitted by PAC or
25 TAC, concerning the Basin Management Action; and

26 9.2.1.2. Prior to seeking judicial review of a Basin Management
27 Action, Watermaster and the disputing Party(ies) shall first engage in mediation unless both
28 Watermaster and the disputing Party(ies) agree in writing to forego mediation. Watermaster may

1 waive the requirement to engage in mediation in which case a Party that has exhausted its
2 administrative remedies with Watermaster and may seek judicial review without having engaged
3 in mediation. A Party must request mediation within 60 days of Watermaster taking a Basin
4 Management Action. A Party must seek judicial review of a Basin Management Action within 30
5 days after the mediation is concluded, waived, or the mediator issues a notice of impasse.

6 9.2.2. Upon such motion the Court shall review the Basin Management
7 Actions as follows:

8 9.2.2.1. The standard of review shall be de novo.

9 9.2.2.2. Unless otherwise requested, sua sponte, by the Court, the
10 Court's review of any decision by Watermaster will be made exclusively on the Watermaster
11 record, which will include all Recommendation Reports and any other documents and reports
12 concerning the subject that are produced from the PAC or TAC, Watermaster's Response Report
13 responding to any Recommendation report issued by the PAC or TAC, all minutes and recordings
14 of the PAC, TAC, and Watermaster, and all staff reports of Watermaster.

15 9.2.2.3. The decision of the Court in such proceeding shall be an
16 appealable supplemental order in this case. When the same is final, it shall be binding.

17 9.2.3. If the dispute involves Watermaster and Watermaster prevails, the
18 Court will require the losing Party(s) to reimburse Watermaster for its reasonable fees and costs
19 arising from the motion if the Court determines that the motion is frivolous.

20 9.3 **Status Conferences.** For the first three years of the Judgment's operation, the
21 Court shall hold status conferences twice a year in April and in October or on such other periodic
22 basis as the Court may further order. Thereafter, the Court shall hold a status conference once a
23 year in April or on such other periodic basis as the Court may further order. The Court may set
24 status conferences and/or require other reports as appropriate to enforce its Judgment and orders
25 or address other aspects of the Physical Solution for the Basin.

26 9.4 **Modification or Amendment of Judgment.** Consistent with Code of Civil
27 Procedure sections 851 and 852, any Party, landowner, or other persons claiming the right to
28 Extract Groundwater from the Basin, whose claims have not been exempted and are covered by

Item F-4

FOX CANYON GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY

LAS POSAS VALLEY WATERMASTER



MEMORANDUM

Date: July 22, 2024
To: Las Posas Valley Watermaster Policy Advisory Committee
From: Kudzai F. Kaseke, Assistant Groundwater Manager
Subject: Committee Consultation Las Posas Valley Watermaster Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-25.

Dear Las Posas Valley Watermaster Policy Advisory Committee (PAC):

The Las Posas Valley Adjudication Judgment requires that Watermaster annually prepare a Watermaster Budget following the Watermaster Rules and Committee Consultation and that such budget shall include: (i) the estimated annual costs of administrative management of the Basin; (ii) the estimated annual costs of Groundwater enhancement or Basin Optimization Projects and reference to the five year-year budget included within the Basin Optimization Plan; and (iii) any adjustments to the Basin Assessment. (Judgment, § 7.5). The Watermaster Budget will be adopted at the same meeting that the Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency adopts its annual budget. (Watermaster Rules, § 2.7.6).

Watermaster has developed a draft Watermaster Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-25 and in compliance with the provisions of the Judgment, refers said budget for committee consultation. Please provide feedback via the email below to the Watermaster by August 16, 2024.

Please contact me at 805 654 2010 or LPV.Watermaster@ventura.org with any questions or concerns.

**Las Posas Valley Basin
Watermaster Budget FY 2024-25¹**

Task	Reference ²	Labor Hours Estimate ³	Labor Cost Estimate ⁴	Contract Cost Estimate ⁵	Hours / Week	Hours / Month	Hours / Year	Blended Rate	Cost
Watermaster Administration									
Watermaster Meetings and Notice	Ex A 2.5	384	\$ 81,408		8	32	384	\$ 212	\$ 81,408
Review of Records	Ex A 2.4	96	\$ 20,352		2	8	96	\$ 212	\$ 20,352
Website	Ex A 2.4.1	24	\$ 5,088		0.5	2	24	\$ 212	\$ 5,088
Subtotal - Watermaster Administration		504	\$ 106,848	\$ -					
Allocations & Record Keeping									
Annual Allocations & Allocation Schedule	4.2, 4.3	40	\$ 8,480				40	\$ 212	\$ 8,480
New Uses / Subscription Projects	4.6	40	\$ 8,480		1	4	40	\$ 212	\$ 8,480
Carryover	4.11	192	\$ 40,704		4	16	192	\$ 212	\$ 40,704
Transfers	4.12	96	\$ 20,352		2	8	96	\$ 212	\$ 20,352
Change of Point of Extraction	4.13	96	\$ 20,352		2	8	96	\$ 212	\$ 20,352
New or Replacement Well	4.14	96	\$ 20,352		2	8	96	\$ 212	\$ 20,352
Overuse	4.15	80	\$ 16,960				80	\$ 212	\$ 16,960
Extraction and use Monitoring and Reporting	Ex A, Article V	384	\$ 81,408	\$ 20,000	8	32	384	\$ 212	\$ 81,408
Data Management and Support		192	\$ 40,704	\$ 200,000	4	16	192	\$ 212	\$ 40,704
Subtotal - Allocations & Record Keeping		1,216	\$ 257,792	\$ 220,000					
Basin Management									
GSP Update (5-year evaluation) ⁶	4.9.1	220	\$ 46,640	\$ 43,440			220	\$ 212	\$ 46,640
2025 Basin Optimization Yield Study ⁶	4.10	220	\$ 46,640	\$ 122,000			220	\$ 212	\$ 46,640
Annual Report ⁶	5.2.3, Ex A 2.7.10	120	\$ 25,440	\$ 48,860			120	\$ 212	\$ 25,440
Initial Basin Optimization Plan ⁶	5.3	180	\$ 38,160	\$ 78,000	0	-	180	\$ 212	\$ 38,160
Subtotal - Basin Management		740	\$ 156,880	\$ 292,300					
Committee Coordination and Consultations									
Policy Advisory Committee	6.1, Ex A Article III	288	\$ 61,056		6	24	288	\$ 212	\$ 61,056
PAC Administration ⁹				\$170,000					
Technical Advisory Committee ⁶	6.11, Ex A Article IV	48	\$ 10,176	\$ 97,440	1	4	48	\$ 212	\$ 10,176
TAC Member Cost ⁷				\$ 259,200					
Insurance ¹⁰				\$ 5,000					
Subtotal - Committee Coordination and Consultations		336	\$ 71,232	\$ 526,640					

**Las Posas Valley Basin
Watermaster Budget FY 2024-25¹**

Task	Reference ²	Labor Hours Estimate ³	Labor Cost Estimate ⁴	Contract Cost Estimate ⁵	Hours / Week	Hours / Month	Hours / Year	Blended Rate	Cost
Budget and Assessments									
Watermaster Budget	7.5, Ex A 2.7.6	80	\$ 16,960				80	\$ 212	\$ 16,960
Basin Assessments	7.1-7.3, 7.6, Ex A 2.8	192	\$ 40,704	\$ 25,000	4	16	192	\$ 212	\$ 40,704
Processing Fees	7.4	192	\$ 40,704		4	16	192	\$ 212	\$ 40,704
Audits	7.7	180	\$ 38,160	\$ 20,000			180	\$ 212	\$ 38,160
Subtotal - Budget and Assessments		644	\$ 136,528	\$ 45,000					
Calleguas Aquifer Storage & Recovery Project									
Calleguas ASR Project Operations Study	8.4	384	\$ 81,408		8	32	384	\$ 212	\$ 81,408
Subtotal - Calleguas Aquifer Storage & Recovery Project		384	\$ 81,408	\$ -					
Legal Services⁸									
Advisory		576	\$ 149,184		12	48	576	\$ 259	\$ 149,184
Judicial Review (challenges to court)	9.2	384	\$ 99,456		8	32	384	\$ 259	\$ 99,456
Subtotal - Legal Services		960	\$ 248,640	\$ -					
	TOTALS:	4,784	\$ 1,059,328	\$ 1,088,940					
			Total:	\$ 2,148,268					
			Operating Reserves¹¹:	\$ 214,827					
			Grand Total:	\$ 2,363,095					
			Total Annual Allocation (AF):	40,000					
			Basin Assessment per AF:	\$ 59.08					
			Quarterly Assessment	\$ 14.77					

FTEs: 2.12 PWA
0.53 County Counsel

2.66 Total

Footnotes

- 1 The FY 2024-25 Budget is for estimated Watermaster administration expenses. It is anticipated that the Basin Assessment may need to be adjusted with addition of Basin Optimization Projects costs following Committee Consultation.
- 2 Reference to LPV Adjudication Judgment section, "Ex A" is Exhibit A of the Judgment.
- 3 Estimated annual hours for Ventura County staff.
- 4 Labor cost estimate based on Ventura County Public Works Agency providing LPV Watermaster staff at a blended rate.
- 5 Contract cost estimate for outside services.
- 6 Contract costs for Dudek for assisting with Response Reports (approved 5/22). Assumes one TAC meeting and response reports.
- 7 Contract cost estimate for three TAC members including preparation of Recommendation Reports. Assumes two meetings per month.
- 8 Legal Services labor costs based on Ventura County Counsel providing LPV Watermaster legal services; Judicial Review includes outside counsel costs.
- 9 PAC 5/3/2024 Letter requested \$170,000 for PAC administrator
- 10 PAC request for PAC and TAC members insurance
- 11 Operating reserves are calculated to be maintained at 10% of annual budget